



September 2023

Welcome to my monthly newsletter.

Guidance to ditches and drainage if owned by a neighbour.

I recently discovered the following information from Suffolk County Council about water run off / blocked drains mainly from fields across the peninsula. With the change in weather patterns creating heavy rain - as experienced recently, flooding is becoming a local issue. I would encourage anybody who believes flooding has been caused by blocked ditches and waterways to check out the guidance from the county council:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/maintenance-of-ditches-and-other-watercourses/riparian-ownership-in-suffolk>



'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH' CAMPAIGN.

Continuing with my water theme - I have become increasingly frustrated in the lack of engagement by East Suffolk to our river health issues. I therefore wrote to Cllr Topping leader of East Suffolk suggesting a local forum of all stakeholders including local landowners and Anglian water to discuss how we can collectively improve our river health.

It is quite shocking pollution continues and I am pushing hard to make sure East Suffolk makes all efforts to improve our river health.

<https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/woodbridge/enough-is-enough-councillor-demands-urgent-action-over-su-9323967/>

MUD

I am seeing mud / sand starting to be a theme across my ward. Climate change - heavy rain / hot days - Land owners not building a boundary for run off from the fields - larger farming equipment breaking up road edges and drainage - removal of ditches and ponds - all have made our roads worse and at times dangerous to drive



In Ramsholt as per this photo it is particularly bad, along with Mill Lane in Butley and Bushy Lane in Hollesley. I will be writing, later this month, to Suffolk County Council cabinet member responsible for highways to understand further what initiatives they are putting in place to guarantee the safety to drive local, along with what communication has taken place between the County Council and landowners to work together to improve our roads.

Following procedure from Suffolk County council

Thank you for your enquiry. Under normal circumstances it is the District Council's responsibility to cleanse the Highway, this includes the sweeping of silt, mud, stone, and other debris. If the buildup is very heavy and compacted and cannot be removed with a sweeper, we may need to attend to scrape the road.

Mud and Debris on the highways can be reported to Suffolk County Council via the reporting tool on our website using the following link Report debris, weeds or mud on the road - Suffolk County Council. When we receive a report the mud/debris on the road is assessed against Matrix A of the Highway Maintenance Operational Plan. Suffolk County Council will only act when there is a safety concern and cannot wait until the next routine cleanse.

If the debris is coming from land adjacent to the highway, we will often work with the landowner to mitigate the amount of mud/debris being deposited on the highway. The Highways Act 1980 makes it an offence to deposit mud and other things on the highway (S148) and Suffolk Highway does have the power under the Highways Act to request the landowner remove the debris.

Leaves and a bit of mud are ok for a road sweeper, I can help push the issue - sand as per photos and across our roads needs a snow plough and further investigation by Suffolk county council with the landowners to stop this happening

EYKE CLEAN UP

It is disappointing to report some residents do not understand the importance of where we live - in one of the most beautiful places in the UK owners of the old shop in Eyke have continued to allow it to fall into disrepair and as you can see by the photos this has been exasperated by the parking of an old trailer, I am working with Eyke Parish council and East Suffolk to use all statutory powers to clean up this mess.



ARMED FORCES DAY

I was delighted to attend the 'raising of the flag' at Rock Barracks in celebration of Armed Forces Day. Representing East Suffolk as well as the Deben ward and marking our gratitude to the incredible role they play in keep our country safe and helping others around the world.



IMPROVED ACCESS TO PRIVATE RENTED HOUSES IN EAST SUFFOLK

I was delighted to see a project that was in infancy under the old administration has now been delivered and I was pleased to read about a new scheme which will help East Suffolk residents to better access private rented housing.

A new lettings partnership – East Suffolk Lettings – will be created, along with the introduction of a new Guaranteed Rent Scheme, to increase residents access to the private rented sector and minimise the use of temporary accommodation.

East Suffolk Lettings will encourage landlords to work with the Council, by charging a lower rent, at Local Housing Allowance or within 10%. Landlords will be offered a financial incentive based on the difference in cost between what they would have been able to charge, compared to the lower rate they are charging.

In return, the Council will guarantee the rent is paid on time, each month and will provide support to the tenant to ensure the tenancy is managed appropriately. This will include completing inventories, three-monthly home visits to check on the condition of the property, supporting with benefit claims, and managing utilities.

Funded through the Homelessness Prevention Grant, received from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the scheme will be offered on a two-year pilot basis and if successful will become a permanent service.



ACTION NOTES

- I have flagged up holistic camping on the field by Rock Barracks as an infringement of planning law – but after investigation by the planning offices the owners have stated they will only open the campsite for the number of days allowed before they need a planning application - we watch this very closely.
- Bromeswell PC (where the field sits) is working with me to manage any noise pollution and they have flagged the enlarged entrance to the field with Suffolk County Council to understand the permits required to build a turning on to the road.
- The water tank in Bawdsey Quay carpark has now been buried and landscaped and shouldn't prove any further danger to vehicles or visitors.
- Bawdsey Quay new parking layout and curb work has been completed and once Suffolk County Council update their paperwork East Suffolk carpark attendants will be able to commence enforcement.
- I have spoken to Cabinet member of the environment at East Suffolk for update on removal of sand off highways and what discussions are taking place with county council to develop a better system – waiting for an update
- I emailed Cabinet member of the environment over increased litter at Shingle Street - initial response was more bins, something I am not keen on so have asked for a confirmation of when bins are emptied - I feel an increase in frequency of collections might be the answer - waiting for reply
- I have spoken to environment protection to ask them to monitor local concerns in Sutton on run off from fields containing pigs into a local stream.
- And summer brings lots of fete – I try and attend as many as possible.
- Spoken to the cabinet member for housing at East Suffolk asking them to prevent the sale of flagship house in Sutton to retain affordable property in the village
Waiting for update

James Mallinder

Deben Ward - A voice for parishes and residents of the Peninsula